

wrong that millions of children, our most vulnerable citizens, go without basic access to health care. With a yes vote, 4 million more children will enjoy the benefits of a healthy future and a real chance in life. I urge a "yes" vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The vote was H. Res. 40, amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require each standing committee to hold periodic hearings on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

BOY SCOUT OF AMERICA'S DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two constituents from South Texas: Patricia "Cherie" Camacho and Marion Velarde.

These two South Texans have been awarded the District Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America, and it is the highest award bestowed upon volunteers in a district that symbolizes their exceptional and noteworthy service to youth in the Boy Scouts of America.

Cherie has served as Scoutmaster for Pack 59 for two years, a commissioner for the Tip-o-Tex District for five years, and as the 2007 Rio Grande Council Scouting Chairman. Her sons Travis and Jordan are currently in Pack 59, and son Ronald has achieved Eagle Scout rank and achieved the Arrow of Light award.

Marion has served as assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 11 for eight years and as an assistant commissioner for the Tip-o-Tex district for three years. She has also held numerous positions with the Rio Grande Council. Marion has been a teacher and administrator for Brownsville Public Schools for over 25 years, and her son Alejandro achieved Eagle Scout rank.

The Boy Scouts of America continue their tradition of providing quality programs for boys and young men. I am proud of both Cherie and Marion for taking an active role in lives of our youth. These parents serve as shining examples of love and duty in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN E. QUINLAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Stop DUI Caucus,

I rise today in tribute to one of the Nation's top traffic safety officials, who has passed away suddenly.

Kevin E. Quinlan was the Chief of the Safety Advocacy Division of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Mr. Quinlan was with the Safety Board for nearly 20 years, serving as the Alcohol and Drug Program Coordinator and Chief of the Safety Recommendations Division. He was instrumental in promoting State action on Safety Board recommendations to reduce fatalities, injuries, and crashes in all modes of transportation. Mr. Quinlan authored five major studies for the Board. Prior to his work with the NTSB, Mr. Quinlan served in the U.S. Army for 29 years, receiving the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal. He has an undergraduate degree from Boston University and graduate degrees from William and Mary, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Mr. Quinlan loved to travel and was skiing in Vermont when he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was well-respected and admired by everyone in the traffic safety community. He was a mentor to countless traffic safety advocates and an inspiration to the thousands of people who lost loved ones to the preventable crime of drunk driving. One of his greatest passions was the fight to stop drunk driving. His expert testimony led to the passage of many effective countermeasures across this Nation. His work has saved countless lives and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleagues on the passage of H.R. 2 yesterday afternoon.

H.R. 2 is a critical piece of legislation that renews and improves the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that ensures health care coverage for over 11 million American children—including the addition of 4 million, previously uninsured.

This legislation also improves SCHIP benefits by ensuring coverage for dental and mental health services.

H.R. 2 will reauthorize SCHIP through FY 2013 and will be fully paid for through an increase in the tobacco tax.

Raising the tobacco tax discourages children from smoking. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the tobacco tax increase will prevent nearly 2 million children from starting to smoke.

I am hopeful that the Senate will also pass H.R. 2 and I look forward to this important legislation becoming law under the new administration of President Obama.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST AT- TACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, when Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, the Islamic group Hamas—which does not acknowledge Israel's right to exist—took control over the small strip of land. Since then, relations between Gaza and Israel have steadily deteriorated.

On December 19, Hamas ended the 6-month cease-fire with Israel by launching dozens of rocket attacks into southern Israel, randomly targeting civilian neighborhoods. Eight days later, Israel began a counter defensive of large scale air strikes. Hamas has continually used Gaza as a launching pad for rockets against Israeli cities and has contributed deeply to a reduction in the quality of daily life and the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

I deeply support Israel's right to defend themselves against Hamas attacks. I also hope to see a sustainable cease-fire brokered to save the innocent victims of Hamas' continual instigation of Israel's defensive power.

A friend recently sent me this compelling Washington Post article which I would like to submit for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 4, 2009]

AS MY SON GOES TO WAR, I AM FULLY
ISRAELI AT LAST

(By Yossi Klein Halevi)

JERUSALEM.—"I just heard on the news that Gavriel's base has been shelled," my wife, Sarah, said to me last Tuesday, referring to our 19-year-old son, a member of an Israeli army tank unit waiting on the Gaza border for the order to enter. And, she added in a deliberately calm tone, "A soldier was killed." We texted Gavriel, and within five minutes he called, safe. How, Sarah asked, did families survive war before cellphones?

For days we waited for a cabinet decision: Will there be a land invasion or a new cease fire? The politicians began to bicker while our soldiers waited on the border, in the rain and the mud. Anything but this, I said to Sarah. Not another Lebanon War, which, like Gaza, began with an impressive show of Israeli air power but ended with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah predicting the imminent end of "the Zionist entity." If we don't win this time—deliver an unambiguous blow if not topple Hamas entirely—our deterrence will further erode, inviting more rocket attacks and encouraging the jihadist momentum throughout the Middle East.

And then I caught myself: How can I be hoping for an outcome that will send my son into battle? This is my first experience as the father of a soldier, and now, after 26 years of living in Israel, I finally understand the terrible responsibility of being an Israeli. I had assumed that I'd become initiated into Israeliness when I myself was drafted into the army as a 34-year-old immigrant in 1989. But perhaps only now have I become fully Israeli. Zionism promised to empower the Jews by making them responsible for their fate; the price for that achievement is to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for one's commitments.

I know Gaza from a previous conflict. During the first intifada of the late 1980s, when Palestinians revolted against the occupation, I was part of a reservist unit that patrolled Gaza's refugee camps. There I learned